

WARREN
MAGAZINE



FREE GIANT COLOR POSTERS INSIDE

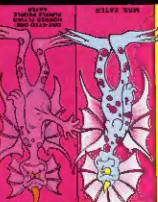
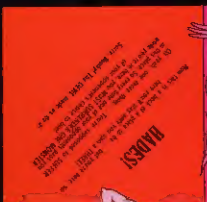
EERIE

SEPT. 1973

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SPECIAL ISSUE
**BEST
STORIES
EVER!**





SPECIAL BONUS FOR YOUR SUMMER FUN

The **EERIE**

MONSTER MATCH



Hours of nonscientific fun are yours when you play Calvin Klein's MONSTER MATCH, an engaging two-player game for the entire year. And the game is yours FREE, included in this special summer issue of EERIE. See page 76 for assembly instructions and additional rules.

HOW TO PLAY

The MONSTER MATCH is a game of skill and chance for two to six players. Each player is attempting to organize an army of monsters! And the first player to own ONE SET OF MONSTERS (two matching monsters) ON EACH OF THE FOUR SIDES OF THE BOARD WINS! It's as simple as that.

HOW TO START

Each player chooses one point the point he will use throughout the game. Player may be one of the MAG SCIENTISTS, one of the WITCH SISTERS, or one of the CHOUH BROTHERS. Once you have chosen your point, cut out the corresponding colored markers. These markers are used to determine ownership of the monsters once game is in progress.

Cut out the ARROW (on page 82) and attach it with a straight pin to the spinner on the point board. You are ready to begin. (Note: the spinner is provided here to launch you with a complete game. But if ready-made, it may be useful for players to use dice.)

To begin place all player points in the starting line. The player who spins the highest number moves first. The player on the LEFT spins next, and so on. Players will move tokens in a clockwise motion around the board.

THE STARTING LINE!



MRS. STEIN

FRANK STEIN

YOU'RE IN TROUBLE NOW, BUNNY DEB!

Everybody's out to get you! And this just might be their big chance! Toss the spinner, if you spin a SIX, SURROUND ONE MONSTER IN EACH player!



THE KID'S PET, PETER PRUNE DOT



HARRY THE HAIRY FUZZ MONSTER

HARNEY FUZZ



OUR COVER: It took us awhile, but we finally got fat old Corrie Eerie to stand still long enough to have his portrait painted by our favorite EERIE cover artist, Seemless.

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EERIE

4 A STRANGER IN HELL I stand on the tracks awaiting the *death* that will come with the train thundering down on me! But it is useless! I know now that I CANNOT DIE!

11 PITY THE GRAVE DIGGER Poor Old Elias was a grave digger. It was a quiet, peaceful job... up until the day when *half-eaten corpses* began rising from graves.

17 THE CATERPILLARS The worms crawl in, the worms crawl out, the worms play pinocle on your snout! Giant caterpillar-worms develop a taste for *fresh human flesh*!

25 EVIL SPIRITS What happens when a man becomes involved with not one, but *two* jealous, possessive women? Why, the poor fellow doesn't stand a GHOST of a chance!

35 EERIE SUPER POSTER Here's a super special summer *gift* from us to you! A double-sided, giant sized, color-crammed poster of *two* of our greatest covers.

43 HEAD SHOP Christopher was captivated by the haberdasher's dummy. With every passing day, the dummy looked more like a *real* person. Christopher lost his head over it!

49 VISION OF EVIL Conrad Archer was an old man someone had locked away in an insane asylum. But he loved to paint pictures of grotesque *monsters*... vividly *real* monsters.

67 THE CURSE OF KALI Like most of her Majesty's troops in India, I was a lonely trooper... until I met the *girl*! She was beautiful, seductive. But really quite *deadly*!

74 THE MONSTER MATCH You've heard of the famous "*Monster Mash*." Well, we go *that* one better with a monster-crammed game complete in this issue. Yours FREE!

CONCERNING OUR MAIL ORDER ADVERTISEMENTS: Warren Publishing Co. guarantees the delivery and satisfaction of all items advertised in this issue. Should you need to write us concerning an order, whether it be from our address or a Post Office Box address, send your letter to: E.C. Ives, Customer Service Dept., Warren Publishing Co., 145 E. 32nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10016.



PROLOGUE...

THERE IS A SADNESS HERE, A MISERY, A HOPELESSNESS CREEPING FROM EVERY DECAYING BUILDING, LIKE THE GRASS CREEPING THROUGH THE BROKEN SIDEWALKS. IT IS WHERE I BELONG...



A TRAIN APPROACHES AND I WAIT PATIENTLY...





WHEW! I WONDER WHAT KIND OF **TRAINING** HE WAS TRYING TO GET! ANYWAY, HE WAS **ON THE RIGHT TRACK!** HEH-HEH! BUT OUR HERO'S TROUBLES ARE JUST BEGINNING! LET'S LET HIM TELL HIS OWN STORY...THE TALE OF...

A STRANGER IN HELL



YOU FAILED.



YES. I FAILED.



WHY DID YOU DO THAT? TELL ME... I WILL LISTEN!

TELL YOU?! WHY?!
TELL YOU SO YOU CAN DO
WHAT? CAN YOU REWEAVE
THE FABRIC OF A LIFE? CAN
YOU HEAL A SOUL? I HAVE
MANY SECRETS, BUT YOU WILL
KNOW NONE OF THEM. GO BACK
TO WHATEVER STRANGE GOD
IT WAS THAT SENT YOU,
AND TELL HIM YOU TOO
HAVE FAILED!



HER EYES BURN
HYPNOTICALLY, AND I
KNOW I MUST SPEAK
WITH HER, IF ONLY FOR
A MOMENT. I KNOW
TOO THAT SHE IS NOT
HUMAN. SHE WOULD
NOT HAVE WITNESSED
MY ATTEMPTED
SUICIDE SO CALMLY
IF SHE HAD BEEN. SHE
KNOWS I CANNOT DIE...



TELL
ME!

ALL RIGHT THEN.
THESE ARE MY MEMORIES;
I DO NOT KNOW WHO I AM.
OR WHY I LIVE. I KNOW ONLY
THAT LONG AGO, LIFE WAS THE
MOST PRECIOUS THING OF ALL
TO ME. NOT BECAUSE IT
ITSELF WAS PRECIOUS, BUT
BECAUSE IT OFFERED HOPE.
NOW THERE IS NO HOPE
LEFT WITHIN ME.



THERE
IS MORE.
TELL ME OF
THAT, ALSO.



YES,
THERE IS
MORE IN MY SOUL.
NOT MEMORIES,
BUT DREAMS...

DREAMS
OF A PEACE
WHICH I
NEVER KNEW,
DREAMS OF STREAMS
AND WILD FLOWERS,
AND COLLIE DOGS
RUNNING THROUGH
WIDE OPEN
FIELDS...

WILL I
EVER FIND
THAT PEACE?
EVER?!

NO, IT
IS NOT WRITTEN
THAT YOU SHOULD!
BUT COME WITH
ME AND PERHAPS I
WILL GIVE YOU
WHAT YOU CRAVE
MOST...



DEATH!



AND SO I FOLLOW
HER BECAUSE I HAVE
NOWHERE ELSE TO
TURN. BECAUSE ONE
DIRECTION IS MUCH
LIKE ANOTHER NOW...

**COME,
STRANGER,
COME!**

FOLLOW ME

**I AM THE
DEATH
MESSENGER OF...**

THERE!
THERE IS WHERE
YOU BELONG! IN
THE SEWERS...
GO AND PERHAPS
I WILL GIVE
YOU DEATH!

DEATH

**NO!
NO!
NOT
THIS!**

**HA
HA
HA HA HA HA**

I WALK DESPONDENTLY THROUGH THE SEWERS NOW WAITING FOR WHATEVER IT WILL BRING ME. A QUOTATION COMES TO MIND: "LOOK UPON MY WORKS, YE MIGHTY, LOOK YE AND DESPAIR." THIS IS WHAT ONE LIFE HAS WROUGHT. THESE ARE THE HOPES AND DREAMS OF A LIFETIME. DREAMS DISTORTED, PERVERTED, CORRUPTED, AND DENIED...TILL ONLY ONE DREAM IS LEFT, ONE ALL-ENCOMPASSING, OBSSSSIVE DREAM OVERSHADOWING AND SUBVERTING ALL THE OTHERS...



ONE DREAM, THE VERY ESSENCE OF WHICH TELLS THE STORY OF ONE LIFE...
LET ME DIE NOW...

TILL AT LAST...

WELCOME STRANGER! I AM THE CULMINATION OF ALL THINGS! I AM THE EQUALIZER! I TAKE...

THE SMILES FROM THE JOYOUS... THE RICHES FROM THE MIGHTY... THE PLEASURES FROM THE SINNERS... THE MISERY FROM THE AFFLICTED...

AND THE HOPE FROM ALL THOSE WHO STILL POSSESS IT! I AM DEATH! WELCOME!



COME TO ME THEN! I AM READY FOR YOU! I ASK BUT ONE THING; BE COMPLETE! BLOT ME OUT! ERASE MY EVERY THOUGHT, MY EVERY MEMORY! LET THERE BE NO DREAMING IN THE LAND OF DEATH!

YOU ARE ARROGANT IN YOUR REQUESTS, STRANGER! I THINK PERHAPS YOU STILL DO HAVE HOPES! THANATOS - MY SON! DEAL WITH HIM!



**NOW!
STRIKE!**



I FALL AND WAIT FOR MY
EXISTENCE TO CEASE, BUT
THERE IS NOTHING. I LIVE
STILL, AND NO DROP OF BLOOD
ESCAPES MY BODY...



WHY? WHY DO I STILL LIVE?
DEATH SPEAKS NOW...

FOOL!
DID YOU REALLY
THINK WE WOULD ALLOW
YOU TO DIE? DID YOU
THINK WE WOULD ATTEMPT
TO ALLEVIATE YOUR
SUFFERING? THE WORLD
THAT EXISTS FOR
YOU... IS HELL!



AND YOUR
FATE IS THE
MOST DISMAL OF
ALL: YOU ARE A
STRANGER IN
HELL!





YOU
UNDERSTAND FAR
TOO LITTLE! KNOW
THIS THEN: THAT THE
GREATEST OF ALL GIFTS GIVEN
TO MAN—PERHAPS THE ONLY
GIFT—WAS THE RIGHT TO
DIE! ANY OTHER MAN CAN
KNOW THAT SOMEDAY
HE—AND ALL HIS WOES—WILL
SOMEDAY CEASE TO BE!
NO MATTER HOW RICH, NO
MATTER HOW POOR—THIS
IS THE ONE GREAT GIFT!
WE HAVE DEPRIVED YOU
OF THAT GIFT! GO AND
LIVE... BECAUSE IT
AMUSES US TO SEE
YOU LIVE!



I DO GO, THE WORDS OF
DEATH ECHOING EMPTY THROUGH
MY SOUL, HAUNTING MY EVERY
FOOTSTEP. **GO AND LIVE...**
IT AMUSES US... SO I WALK
AND AWAIT WHATEVER NEW
SUFFERINGS THAT HELL WILL
BRING, PATIENTLY, HUMBL...
AS MUST EVERY MAN.



EVEN IN THE 18th CENTURY OLD ENGLISH SUPERSTITIONS PERSISTED KEPT ALIVE BY THOSE FEW CURIOUS INDIVIDUALS AS STILL BE. EVED IN THE FRIGHTFUL LEGENDS PASSED DOWN TO THEM BY WHISPERING FEAR-HAUNTED ANCESTORS ONE SUCH MAN WAS ELIAS ELGER, CARETAKER FOR THE SMALL VILLAGE CEMETERY OF MOOLEMIST, A MAN WITH A THANKLESS JOB, TRULY, POOR ELIAS!

COME NOW, LAD!
PUT YOUR BACK INTO IT!
DO YOU WANT OLD
WAREHAM THERE TO
CATCH HIS DEATH
O'COLD?

WHY,
MR. ELGER! SHOULD
WE MAKE SUCH
JOKES OVER
THE DEAD?



PITY THE CRIME DIGGER!

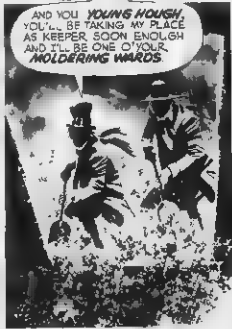
AYE, LAD,
WE **SHOULD** FWE
WANT TO KEEP OUR
SANITY THROUGH
THE LONG BLACK NIGHTS
AND EMPTY DAYS.

AND YOU **YOUNG HOUND**
YOU'LL BE TAKING MY PLACE
AS KEEPER, SOON ENOUGH
AND I'LL BE ONE O'YOUR
HOLDING WARDS.

GUIDED BY FIFTY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE,
OLD ELIAS' SHOVEL EASILY TAPPED THE
LAST CLODS OF EARTH INTO PLACE...

THERE
NOW, WE'VE
GOT MR. WAREHAM
TUCKED IN **SNAUG.**
AND NONE TOO
SOON, I THINK.

AYE,
THE YARD
WILL BE
BLACK AND FULL
OF HAND
TONIGHT.



THEN AS THE GRAVEKEEPER AND HIS ASSISTANT RETURNED TO THEIR SMALL COTTAGE BESIDE THE CEMETERY...



HOUGH CALLICOTT WATCHED THE OLD MAN'S FACE, WHITE AND TREMBLING WITH FEAR. HE WONDERED HOW A BAT COULD SCARE A MAN WHO HAD LIVED SO LONG **AMONG THE DEAD.**



ONCE WITHIN THE COTTAGE, ELIAS BECAME AWARE OF HIS APPRENTICE'S QUESTIONING STARE...



ELIAS LEANED VERY CLOSE TO HOUGH, HIS OLD EYES GLITTERING WITH A **SPECIAL SECRET.**

"BE SILENT BOY HEED ME **DESTROY A VAMPIRE** T MAY BE THAT ONE DAY YOU WILL JUST AS I DID I WAS AS YOUNG AS YOU, HOUGH..."



I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES I'VE SHOVED A **WOODEN STAKE** THROUGH A **DECAYED HEART** OR TREMBLING LOPPED OFF A GROTESQUE HEAD...

LITTLE DO THE VILLAGERS REALIZE HOW I, A **SIMPLE GRAVE KEEPER**, GUARD THEM WHILE THEY SLEEP IN THEIR BEDS GUARD THEM FROM ALL MANNER OF HORROR.

THERE WAS THE NIGHT THAT TWO GRAVE ROBBERS BROKE INTO THE CEMETERY. I WAS UNABLE TO REACH THEM IN TIME AND THEY HAD ALREADY UNEARTHED A BODY.

GOT US A BIG ONE HERE, SAMUEL BIG DEY... HE IS!

I SAW THEN THAT THE MORBID FOOLS HAD UNEARTHED ONE OF THE VAMPIRE DEAD. I READIED MYSELF A Mallet and STAKE, KNOWING THAT I WOULD HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE **UNDEAD**.

LORD HELP US!

GOOD GOD! A VAMPIRE!

IT'S ALIVE... ONE OF THE UNDY NG! MY GOD!

IT WAS ALMOST COMIC SEEING THEM TRYING TO RUN OFF... A KIND OF JUST DESERT FOR THE MANY **DESECRATIONS** THEY HAD PERFORMED!

NO TIME TO CATCH THEM!

BUT THERE CAME A TIME WHEN THE THOUGHT OF VAMPIRES WAS SUBMERGED IN A FAR GREATER **UNKNOWN TERROR**!

PLEASE... UNHHH!

IT WAS TERRIBLE. HOLGI! TERRIBLE! THE THING CRUMPLED BEFORE ME, AND I KNEW THERE WERE MORE OF THEM ALL AROUND ME. JUST WAITING FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT TO STRIKE!

SOMETHING DEVoured THE CORPSE!

I WHO IN TIMES PAST, HAD BEEN CALLED UPON TO UNEARTH BODIES
SOMETIMES SIX MONTHS BURIED, WAS STILL REPULSED BY WHAT I SAW.

I WAS TERRIFIED, YOUNG HOUGH, JUST AS ANY
SANE MAN WOULD BE, AND MORE SO WHEN
I DISCOVERED



I PUT THESE
TWO POOR SOULS
TO REST ONLY LAST
WEEK AND NOW
BOTH **GNAWED TO
THE VERY BONES!**

ANOTHER
BODY HORRIBLY
MUTILATED AND
FOOTPRINTS SMALL
BLOODY TRACKS
HUNDREDS OF THEM.

AND SO IT WAS THAT, LATE ONE NIGHT, I HEARD **MOUSES** IN A
FRESHLY-FILLED CRYPT! GUIDED BY MOONLIGHT I
FOUND THEM

THEY FAILED TO SEE ME. THEY WERE MUCH TOO
PREOCCUPIED WITH FEASTING ON THE DEAD! I
HAD STAYED DYNAMITE NEARBY FOR, A
PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT SECTION OF THE EARTH
I KNEW THEN THAT I COULD USE THE DYNAMITE
AGAINST THEM, THOUGH I WAS HARDLY ABLE TO
KEEP MY HANDS STEADY TO LIGHT THE FUSE!



HEAVEN PROTECT
ME! THEY'RE THE THING
I'VE MOST DREADED
**WIDEBOYS
LITTLE.**

DESPERATE I THREW THE FLAMING STICK
INTO THE VAULT BUT NOT BEFORE

"SCREAMING, I THREW MYSELF TO THE
GROUND JUST AS TWO HELLISH BAT
SHAPES DARTED PAST"

"THEN THE VAULT **EXPLODED,**
FOREVER **DESTROYING** ALL
THE **HELLSPAWN**" TRAPPED
WITHIN



**BLACK SHAPES,
DARTING AT ME!
AURGH!**

GHAH!
AAHHH!



BUT ROUGH... ROUGH LAD, I DIDN'T
GET THEM **ALL!** THOSE **TWO**
THAT **ESCAPED...**!

YES, **CERTAINLY**.
AND FOR THAT REASON,
YOU, **MUST BELIEVE** ME
I ALWAYS BE ON
GUARD!

I BELIEVE
YOU SAW
SOMETHING

BEST TO **HUMOR**
MM... **PRETEND**
I BELIEVE

AND YOU
SUPPOSE...
THEY **MIGHT**
RETURN?

THREE LONG AND LONELY YEARS PASSED. OLD ELIAS' **SERIE TALE**
SOMEWHERE IN THE BACK OF ROUGH CALLICOTT'S MIND, **ALMOST**
FORGOTTEN... UNTIL...



ELIAS! DID HE **FALL**
DOWN THE STAIRS OF THE
VAULT?!

THE SCREAM CAME FROM THE FAR
SIDE OF THE CEMETERY



POOR OLD FOOL!
HE SHOULD'VE
RETIRED!... LET ME
DO ALL THE WORK.

ROUGH SEARCHED VAINLY AMONG
THE VAULTS. THEN HE HEARD
WHIMMING SOUNDS, A
HELLISH SCRABBLING WITHIN
THE 'BLACK MOUTH' OF A VAULT

WH-WHAT?
WHAT IS IT...?

HOUGH STEPPED INTO THE
HALF-LIGHT OF THE TOMB,
THERE TO SEE...

IT'S TRUE!
THEY THEY'RE
CHANGING INTO
-S UNDESPEAKABLE
MONSTROUS!!

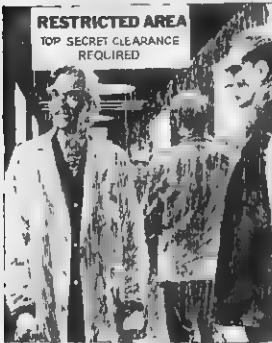
HOUGH CALLCOTT WANTED TO RUN MORE THAN
ANYTHING HE WANTED TO RUN BUT INSTEAD HE
FELT HIS BODY MELTING DOWN THE DAMP CRYPT
WALL AND ALL THE WHILE THE SMALL
CHITTERING THINGS WERE LEAVING OLD
BROTHER'S PICKED BODY AND COMING
FOR HIM, COMING TO DEVOUR HOUGH! AND
HE WATCHED THEM COME UNABLE TO MOVE
PARALYZED WITH FEAR!

WILL, ARE YOU WONDERING WHERE WE
THOSE BATS SHOULD'VE BEEN IN YANKEE
STADIUM. THREE STRIKES AND YOU'RE OUT!



THE PLACE: A SUPER SECRET GOVERNMENT INSTALLATION LOCATED TWENTY STORIES BENEATH THE STREETS OF NEW YORK CITY... THE TIME: TOMORROW. HERE, THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE WORKS 24 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK, TO PERFECT THE ULTIMATE IN MODERN WARFARE... HERE, A TRAGIC MISTAKE OF SCIENCE WILL CREATE...

THE CATERPILLARS



ABOVE THE SECRET GOVERNMENT LABORATORIES STANDS THE FAMED MULTIMILLION DOLLAR EPLEY BUILDING, A PERFECT "COVER"...

AT THIS MOMENT, IN A PRIVATE CONFERENCE ROOM, PROFESSOR KEYS DELIVERS HIS ANNUAL REPORT TO TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS...

...AND SO YOU SEE, GENTLEMEN, EVERY PENNY OF WASHINGTON'S MONEY IS BEING SPENT WISELY AND WITH THE MAXIMUM POSITIVE RESULTS... THAT BRINGS ME TO THE END OF MY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PROJECT X-3...

THANK YOU, PROFESSOR. NOW WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT THE PROGRESS YOUR INSTALLATION HAS BEEN MAKING...





I WILL BEGIN, GENERAL,
BY DISCUSSING A NEW PROJECT
I HAVE JUST BEGUN... THE
DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW FORM
OF INSECT LIFE...
UNNN!! MY HEAD!

MY GOD,
PROFESSOR
KEYS! WHAT'S
WRONG?

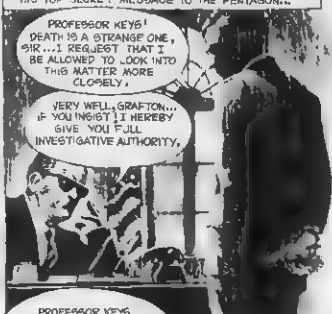


HE COLLAPSED,...
CALL A DOCTOR.



IT'S TOO
LATE... PROFESSOR
KEYS IS DEAD!...
I HAVE TO REPORT THIS
TO WASHINGTON
IMMEDIATELY!

SECURITY AGENT GRAFTON PERSONALLY DELIVERS
HIS TOP SECRET MESSAGE TO THE PENTAGON...



PROFESSOR KEYS'
DEATH IS A STRANGE ONE,
SIR... I REQUEST THAT I
BE ALLOWED TO LOOK INTO
THIS MATTER MORE
CLOSELY.

VERY WELL, GRAFTON...
IF YOU INSIST I HEREBY
GIVE YOU FULL
INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITY.

THE NEXT DAY...



WELCOME TO
OUR INSTALLATION,
MR. GRAFTON. I GUESS I
DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU
THAT THIS PLACE IS
ONE OF THE MOST
CLOSELY-GUARDED
SECRETS IN THE
WORLD.

I'M AWARE
OF THAT, DR. BARNES...
MY MISSION IS TO FIND
OUT EXACTLY WHAT
YOU'RE DOING HERE. YOU
SEE, PROFESSOR KEYS
DEATH HAS MADE
WASHINGTON A
LITTLE JUMPY...



PROFESSOR KEYS'
DEATH WAS TRAGIC, I AGREE,
BUT I SEE NO NEED FOR THE
GOVERNMENT TO BLAME US.
WE SCIENTISTS DON'T LIKE
WASHINGTON PUSHING ITS
NOSE INTO OUR AFFAIRS.
YOU UNDERSTAND...

NEVERTHELESS,
DOCTOR—LET'S
START BY TAKING A
LOOK AT
PROFESSOR KEYS'
LABORATORY.

"I'VE NEVER SEEN THE
MORTUARY OF A MAN IN MY
LIFE. BUT AS FOR THE
GODS, THEY ARE THE
BEST OF US. I'VE BEEN
WASTING MY TIME FOR
HUNDREDS OF YEARS."

"I SEE THEM
EVERYWHERE!
MORTAL A MAN
WITH HIS TITLES AND
OCCUPATIONS IS
KILLING!"

ACTUALLY, MR.
GOD, THE PESTS OF THE
WORLD ARE A NEW TYPE
OF INSECT. IT'S A FORM
OF INSECT THAT WOULD
ATTACK A PLANT AND QUICKLY
DRAIN IT OF ITS FLUID, THUS
KILLING IT. THIS INSECT WAS
TO BE USED IN FARMING, TO
DESTROY WEEDS AND
OTHER PLANT PESTS, ASIDE
FROM ITS MILITARY
USES...

MEANWHILE, IN THE CITY CEMETERY, STRANGE
THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT THE GRAVE OF
POPE JOHN...

"WELL, THAT'S IT FOR
ANOTHER DAY! NOW I CAN GO
HOME AND BE A FATHER!
I'VE BEEN A FATHER FOR
HUNDREDS OF YEARS, BUT
NOT A FATHER!"



A SHORT TIME LATER, AN ELDERLY COUPLE, DRESSED
IN MOURNING, COMES TO THE CEMETERY TO SEEK
THE GRAVEDIGGER'S SERVICES.

"HERE WE ARE,
MARTHA. SEEMS
A FATHER..."

"LET'S
BE..."

"GOD
LORD!!"

FRAZIER

LATER...

WHAT
HAPPENED HERE??
THAT GRAVEDIGGER
DIED A HORRIBLE
DEATH...

SOMETHING
OBVIOUSLY CAME
OUT OF PROFESSOR
KEYS' GRAVE!
BUT WHAT??

BACK AT THE TOP
SECRET LABORATORY...

I FEEL THE CLUE TO
PROFESSOR KEYS' DEATH IS
IN THIS TEST TUBE...
I CAN'T TELL WITH THE
WORK HE WAS DOING.

DO THE BARNES
COME QUICKLY.
THEY'VE BEEN
IN THIS PATH
IN WASH. D. C.

WHAT DO
WE
WANT
IMMEDIATELY?

IN A NEARBY GOVERNMENT MORGUE...

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING NOW,
DR. BARNES?

OPENING THIS
MAN'S SKULL. HIS
SUDDEN DEATH MAY
HAVE BEEN AIDED BY
A... WAIT A
MINUTE! THERE SEEMS
TO BE SOMETHING
INSIDE THE SKULL
FEEDING ON THE
BRAIN...

THEN...

DR. BARNES!
WHAT IS IT??

WORM...
SMITH'S SKULL...
FEEDING ON HIS
BRAIN...
NEVER HEARD
ANYTHING LIKE
IT.

I WOULD SAY THAT
SOME UNKNOWN FORM OF
INSECT LIFE, THE SAME
THAT WE'VE FOUND AS A
BY-PRODUCT OF THE
ATOMIC TESTS, IS AT
THIS MOMENT FEEDING
ON HIS LIVING BRAIN!

ANY
MORE
TOO HORRIBLE
FOR WORDS.

I'LL TAKE
IT BACK TO
WASHINGTON
FOR FURTHER
STUDY...

SO YOU SEE, SIR—I THINK THE RESEARCH AT THE NEW YORK INSTALLATION HAS GOTTEN OUT OF HAND. AN INSECT DEVELOPED BY PROFESSOR KEYS TO ATTACK AND DESTROY CERTAIN FORMS OF PLANT LIFE IS ATTACKING **HUMAN BEINGS** INSTEAD! THIS GROTESQUE **WORM** IS THE RESULT, FEEDING ON MEN'S **BLOOD**!

THIS IS INCREDIBLE! YOU MOST CERTAINLY HAVE MY PERMISSION TO CLOSE DOWN THE NEW YORK INSTALLATION. THEIR RESEARCH MUST BE STOPPED BEFORE THIS THING GETS COMPLETELY OUT OF HAND! I WANT YOU TO RETURN THERE IMMEDIATELY!



I'VE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO SEE THAT YOUR INSTALLATION IS CLOSED DOWN, DR. BARNES. PROFESSOR KEYS' RESEARCH WITH INSECT PARASITES HAS BECOME TOO DANGEROUS...

BUT SURELY YOU CAN'T BLAME THE DEATHS OF DR. SMITH AND PROFESSOR KEYS ON OUR WORK HERE! THAT WORM...IT COULD HAVE BEEN JUST A FREAK OF NATURE. IT WOULD BE STUPID TO STOP OUR EXPERIMENTS NOW. I'LL COME WITH ME TO OUR LABORATORY. I'LL SHOW YOU THE PROGRESS WE'RE MAKING!



THIS IS OUR MAJOR LABORATORY.



THAT STRANGE PUNCTURE ON THE BACK OF THE NECK... AND THESE **COWBOTS**...

LABORATORY. IT'S OUR ONLY HOPE!

THEN SUDDENLY...

AAAAH!!

LOOK OUT, BARNES...

YOU WERE
RIGHT, WASHINGTON...
SOMETHING'S OFF. SOMETHING
WE'VE NEVER BEFORE
CREATED "HERE"
IN THE

WE MAY
STILL HAVE TIME
TO DESTROY
THE PARASITES IF
WE CAN REACH THIS
LABORATORY AND
EVERYTHING IN IT!
... HURRY!

SOON, ALL THOSE
POOR DEVILS IN THERE
WILL MATCH MORE
MONSTERS. THEN WE'LL
HAVE TO DESTROY THE
ENTIRE INSTALLATION!

QUICK! LOCK
THE THINGS
IN...

THIS BUTTON
WILL RELEASE A
DEADLY GAS THROUGHOUT
THE ENTIRE RESEARCH
CENTER. WE CAN
ENHANCE IN THE
ELEVATOR.

HBSSST!
...HBSSST!
SKREEEE!!

THIS ELEVATOR
IS GAS-PROOF... WE'LL
SOON BE AT STREET LEVEL
BUT HOW CAN WE EXPLAIN
THIS TO WASHINGTON??
THEY'LL THINK WE'RE
MAD.

... I KNOW, JACK. OK.
MAYBE THERE
ARE SOME
QUESTIONS THAT
HAVE NO ANSWERS.
HOW DO THE
MONSTERS MATCH?



DR. BARNES:
WHAT'S
WRONG?!

I DON'T
KNOW...FEEL FAINT...
BODY GIVING
OUT...SO
TRED...

UNNN!

...HE'S
DEAD...THAT
PUNCTURE ON
HIS NECK...
HE'S ONE OF
THEM!!

THEY SUDDENLY, BEFORE GRAFTON'S
AMAZED EYES

DR. BARNES
BODY...IT'S RECORDING
CRACKS...AND RATTLE...
LIKE A JOEL...MUGK...
SOME THING IS TRYING
TO BREAK TO WAY
OUT...

CHRRRR
P
BRASS

DOWN
THAT WEAPON,
GRAFTON.

WHO?
YOU CAN TALK
WHO AM I YOU??
WHERE DO YOU
COME FROM??

I AM ONE OF
MANY CREATED BY PROFESSION
KEYS...AN ALIEN HE
DID NOT INTEND WE GROW
WHEN WE GROW...DEVELOP
THEIR BRAINS ABSORB THEIR
INTELLECT...CONTROL THEIR
BODIES THEN AT HATCH
SOON WE WILL BE
EVERYWHERE.

THEN
IT'S UP TO ME
TO STOP
YOU.

SKREEE-
AAAAAH!!

GRAFTON SOON REACHES THE STREET LEVEL AND FINDS...

MY GOD!
THEY'RE
EVERYWHERE!!

MUST ESCAPE...
GET BACK TO WASHINGTON
BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

SKREEEE!!

...AND SO THAT'S
MY REPORT, SIR. NEW YORK HAS
ALREADY BEEN INFESTED BY
THOSE GHOSTLY MONSTER-WORMS.
WE MUST DESTROY THEM
BEFORE THEY TAKE OVER THE
NATION-AND THEN THE
WORLD.

YOU SURPRISE
ME, GRAFTON... I'M
SURPRISED NOT BY YOUR
REPORT, BUT BY THE FACT THAT
YOU ESCAPED WITH YOUR
LIFE!... YOU SEE, I DIDN'T
PLAN IT THAT WAY!

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
SIR??

JUST THAT YOU WERE
BECOMING TOO MEDDLESOME
ABOUT PROFESSOR KEYS' DEATH... I
SENT YOU TO THE INSTALLATION HOPING
MY COMRADES WOULD ELIMINATE YOU
BEFORE YOU FOUND OUT WHAT WE
WERE DOING THERE... IT WAS A
BREEDING GROUND- A BREEDING
GROUND FOR THE FORM OF LIFE
THAT HAS TAKEN OVER MY BODY,
AND THE BODIES OF OTHERS
HERE IN THE GOVERNMENT.

AND NOW SINCE
YOU ARE NOT ONE OF US,
I MUST ELIMINATE
YOU MYSELF!

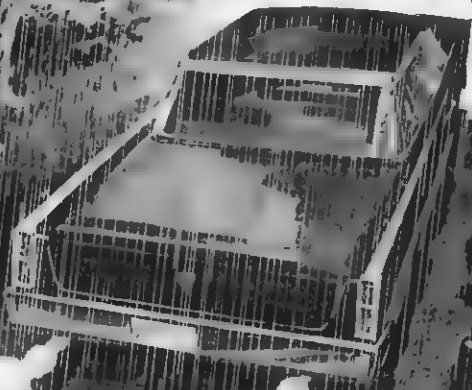
NO!!
AAAAAAGHHH!!

TURNED, EDDY
GRAFTON GOT
CAUGHT IN THE
BACK LASH. BUT
HE'S GOT
BUTTERFLIES IN
HIS STOMACH



DON'T BOTHER TO LOCK THE DOOR BEHIND YOU AS YOU ENTER THIS CHAMBER OF DREAD, MY FRIEND, FOR THE CREATURES OF THE DARK CANNOT BE DETURRED BY THINGS DESIGNED BY MERE MORTALS. INSTEAD, YOU MUST TRUST IN THINGS YOU CANNOT FATHOM... SIT DOWN... AND PAY SCANT ATTENTION TO ALL THE WAILINGS AND SHRIEKINGS YOU HEAR, FOR IT IS ONLY THE CRIES OF THOSE WHO HAVE TRAVELLED TO THE WORLD BEYOND AND CANNOT FIND PEACE! AND IT SO HAPPENS OUR TALE IS ABOUT SUCH THINGS AND HOW THEY COME TO BE...

EVIL SPIRITS!



FLOODING HEAVILY THROUGH THE RIVERS OF WATER THAT MOURNFULLY COURSED THE SODDEN DRIVEWAY, THE CAR SLOWLY SPLASHED AND LURCHED TO A STOP BEFORE THE HUGE DOOR OF THE HULKING, DESERTED MANSION...

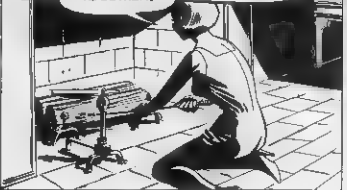


HURRIEDLY, SHE LEFT THE PROTECTION OF THE CAR AND RAN THROUGH THE TORRENTIAL RAIN TO THE DOOR WHERE THE HIGH, OVERHANGING ARCH KEPT HER RELATIVELY DRY WHILE SHE INSERTED THE LONG KEY IN THE RUSTING OLD LOCK AND OPENED THE CREAKING MASS OF WOOD...



HER FUMBLING HANDS SEARCHED CABINET AFTER CABINET, DRAWER UPON DRAWER, BUT THERE WERE NO CANDLES. ANGRILY, SHE REMOVED HER COAT AND IN THE MAIN SALON SHE SET ABOUT THE MAKING OF A FIRE...

I DON'T SEE HOW ONE MORE DAY WOULD HAVE MATTERED! I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE WAITED 'TIL TOMORROW... WE COULD HAVE DRIVEN HERE TOGETHER!



FOR LONG MINUTES, CYNTHIA BRENT RESTED FROM THE STRAIN OF HER WEARYING JOURNEY. THEN CLOSED THE CAR'S HEADLIGHTS, SHUT THE IGNITION AND SWORE SLENTLY...



I MUST HAVE BEEN OUT OF MY MIND TO COME UP HERE ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS, NO MATTER HOW MUCH PETER WANTED ME TO! OUT OF MY MIND!

OLD, FAMILIAR, MUSTY SMELLS GREETED HER, WITH THE DOOR CLOSED THE OMINOUS STORM OUTSIDE SEEMED QUIETER, LESS VIOLENT, BUT WHEN HER HAND FLICKED THE LIGHT SWITCH AND FOUND IT TO BE USELESS, SHE KNEW THE POWER LINES WERE DOWN AND THE STORM WAS TO BE RECKONED WITH FOR QUITE SOME TIME...



THE FLICKERING FLAMES GLOWED BRIGHTLY, GLOWED TEASINGLY... TAINTINGLY...

NOW HERE I AM IN THIS EMPTY OLD PLACE... AND PETER... PETER'S PROBABLY WITH THAT... THAT WOMAN!



SHE STAYED BY THE FIRE, WARMING HERSELF, DRYING THE DAMPENESS OF HER CLOTHES. SILENTLY SMOULDERING IN JEALOUS FURY...

WHY AM I SUCH A FOOL? WHY DID I MARRY HIM? I KNEW HE WAS NO GOOD... KNEW HE ONLY WANTED MY MONEY, THAT HE DIDN'T LOVE ME!



CYNTHIA BRENT STRODE TO THE LIQUOR CABINET AND POURED A LARGE SCOTCH. SHE GULPED IT DOWN, ENJOYING THE BURN INSIDE HER THROAT, THE INNER WARMTH...

WELL, I'M HERE. MIGHT AS WELL MAKE THE BEST OF IT...TRY NOT TO THINK!



SHE GATHERED SEVERAL BOOKS AND MAGAZINES, AND WITH THE LIQUOR BOTTLE AS COMPANY, SAT BEFORE THE FIRE AND TRIED TO PASS THE HOURS, BUT HER CONCENTRATION WAS POOR, THE CRASHING THUNDER AND VIVID LIGHTNING MAKING HER JUMP NERVOUSLY...

THAT BLASTED STORM! THIS OLD PLACE IS CREEPY ENOUGH WITHOUT HAVING THAT TO PUT UP WITH!



SHE DOWNED ANOTHER DRINK...AND THEN ANOTHER, STARING DEEPLY INTO THE DYING FLAMES AND LISTENING TO THE RURY OF THE STORM...LISTENING AND THINKING, THINKING AND LISTENING...

THIS IS RIDICULOUS! I CAN'T JUST SIT HERE ALL NIGHT! I'LL GO OUT OF MY MIND!



DETERMINED, SHE ROSE, POURED ANOTHER DRINK AND DOWNED IT. THEN PICKING UP HER COAT AND THROWING IT ABOUT HER SHOULDERS, SHE LEFT THE ROOM AND FELT HER WAY THROUGH THE COLD DARKNESS OF THE HOUSE, UP THE STAIRWAY TO HER BEDROOM.

PETER WILL BE HERE IN THE MORNING. HE PROMISED HE WOULD BE. SLEEP WILL MAKE THE TIME PASS SWIFTLY... SWIFTLY...



AS BEFORE, SHE RUMMAGED THROUGH EVERY POSSIBLE PLACE IN SEARCH OF A CANDLE, BUT THERE WERE NONE. TIREDLY GROPING, SHE TOOK HER NIGHTGOWN FROM HER VALISE AND CHANGED IN THE DARKNESS



SHE GLIDED SILENTLY IN A VOID, STRIDING SLOWLY, EVER SO SLOWLY TOWARD A SILKEN VEIL THAT HUNG SUSPENDED BEFORE HER AND AS SHE NEARED IT, IT DREW FURTHER AWAY MOCKING HER...



CHILLED AND WEARY, CYNTHIA CRAWLED BENEATH THE HEAVY COVERS AND PRAYED FOR SLEEP. BUT SLEEP DID NOT COME EASILY, AND WHEN IT DID, DREAMS CAME WITH IT...



BEHIND THAT VEIL WAS SOMETHING FRIGHTENING, SOMETHING SHE COULD NOT BEAR TO SEE, YET **HAD** TO SEE; SHE RAN FASTER AND FASTER AND FROM THE VEIL CAME A HIDEOUS LAUGH, DERIDING HER, AND THE LAUGH WAS FAMILIAR...FAM LIAR...



AND THE VEIL WAS LIFTED, LIFTED BY HUGE HANDS TO REVEAL A GIANTIC, LAUGHING FACE, LAUGHING AND LAUGHING SO LOUDLY HER EARDRUMS ACHED, AND THE FACE WAS FAMILIAR...IT WAS **HER** FACE! MAGDA'S FACE! THE WOMAN WHO WAS WITH PETER!



AT ONCE, MAGDA'S FACE GREW SMALLER AND THEN BECAME A FIGURE RUNNING AHEAD OF CYNTHIA AND THE FIGURE WAS JOINED BY ANOTHER, AND THEN ANOTHER, AND YET ANOTHER! AND ALL OF THEM WERE PETER AND ALL OF THEM WERE RUNNING AWAY! AWAY!



IN HER DREAM, CYNTHIA CRIED OUT FOR THEM TO STOP! SHE TRIED TO SPEAK TO PETER BUT HER VOICE WAS SO WEAK IT COULD NOT BE HEARD ABOVE THE LAUGHTER, AND THE DOOR LOOMED AHEAD ..A GOAL...



IN THE DOORWAY THE FIGURES STOOD TAUNTINGLY... PETER AND MAGDA...LAUGHING AND CALLING TO HER. WORDS SHE COULD NOT HEAR AND SHE GREW SMALLER...



AND THE DOOR GREW LARGER AND THE FIGURES LARGER STILL..AND THE DOOR BEGAN TO CLOSE, TOWERING HIGH OVERHEAD, CLOSING ON MAGDA AND PETER AND CYNTHIA WAS POWERLESS TO STOP, TO REACH OUT, TO SPEAK...

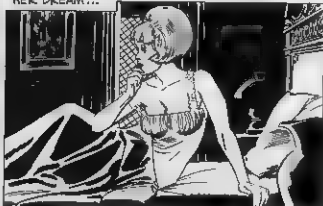
AT ONCE, THE DOOR SLAMMED SHUT WITH A ROAR THAT DEAFENED AND IT BEGAN TO CRACK ASUNDER INTO MANY PIECES ALL OF WHICH STARTED TO RAIN DOWN UPON HER IN HEAVY, PONDEROUS SLOW MOTION ..LANDING ALL ABOUT HER IN MYRIAD PATTERNS AND SOUNDS!



SOUNDS! BOLT UPRIGHT IN HER BED, SHE SAT, AWARE OF HER HEAVY BREATHING HER TREMBLING NERVES, AND SHE LISTENED FOR THE SOUNDS!



THE NIGHTMARE'S PANIC RECEEDED INTO THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF AWAKENING, AND GRADUALLY THE WIND AND RAIN SOUNDS OF THE STORM AT LAST PENETRATED HER AWARENESS AND SHE WAS AWAKE...AND LISTENING STILL...FOR SOMEHOW, THOUGH SHE KNEW SHE HAD BEEN DREAMING, SHE WAS ALERT NOW TO SOME **OTHER** SOUND SHE HAD HEARD...A SOUND THAT HAD NOT BEEN PART OF HER DREAM...



SHE ROSE FROM THE BED, THE COOL AIR OF THE ROOM CHILLING HER MOIST, PERSPIRING FLESH, BUT SHE PAID NO HEED, SO INTENT WAS SHE ON MOVING FROM THE ROOM, LISTENING.

NO ONE IN THE MAIN HALLWAY... COULDN'T BE PETER... HE WOULDN'T COME OUT HERE IN THIS WEATHER... MAYBE I ONLY IMAGINED...



STILL THE FEELING PERSISTED. SOMETHING TOLD HER SHE **HAD** HEARD A NOISE, NOTWITHSTANDING THE FURY OUTSIDE WITH ITS CRACKLING AND THUNDERING, SHE WAS ALMOST CERTAIN SHE HAD HEARD A STRANGE NOISE, A **SMALL** NOISE! SHE MOVED CAUTIOUSLY DOWN THE STAIRS IN THE MAIN SALON, THE FIRE HAD DIED...

NO ONE HERE... I'll CHECK THE CORRIDOR



IN THE GREAT, LONG CORRIDOR, CONNECTING THE TWO WINGS OF THE CASTLE, SHE STOPPED. FOR SHE HAD SEEN THE DIM GLOW OF A MOVING LIGHT SHINING FROM BEYOND THE TURN AT THE FAR END... FEAR CAME TO HER...

THERE. THERE **IS** SOMEONE IN HERE! I **KNOW** IT ISN'T PETER! IT MUST BE A PROWLER, THINKING THE HOUSE IS EMPTY!



OH! THE LIGHT - GROWING BRIGHTER! IT'S COMING THIS WAY! I HAVE TO HIDE! I HAVE TO HIDE!



CYNTHIA'S FEAR MOUNTED RAPIDLY AT THE THOUGHT OF BEING TRAPPED BY SOME UNKNOWN FIEND! TURNING QUICKLY TO RUN, SHE STUMBLED AGAINST A STANDING SUIT OF ARMOR, SENDING IT CRASHING TO THE FLOOR IN A TREMENDOUS CLATTER!



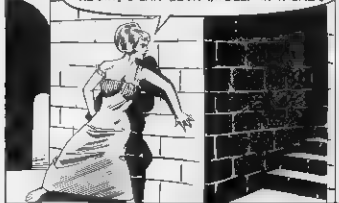
PETRIFIED, AFRAID TO CALL OUT, CYNTHIA SILENTLY MOVED AWAY, CLUMBSILY MAKING HER WAY UP THE STAIRS IN TREMBLING HASTE

THE LAST TIME PETER AND I ARGUED...WHEN I TOLD HIM I KNEW HE WAS SEEING MAGDA...HE WAS SO VERY ANGRY! HE THREATENED ME!



HER SHAKING HANDS EXPLORED BEFORE HER IN THE BLACKNESS, GROPING AND FINDING HER WAY AS SHE SEARCHED FOR A PLACE TO HIDE! ROOMS WERE TOO BIG TO BE LOST IN, TOO EASY TO BE TRAPPED IN! SHE WANTED A SMALL, DARK, UNKNOWN, EVEN INVISIBLE PLACE TO BE SAFE TILL THE TERROR WAS PAST...

THESE STEPS...THEY LEAD TO THE TOWER ROOM! I CAN LOCK MYSELF IN THERE!



THE LIGHT! IT'S GONE OUT. WHOEVER IT IS KNOWS I'M HERE! OH, MY HEAVENS! I SEE SOMEONE!



POISED IN FROZEN STANCE ON THE LANDING, WAITING AND LISTENING...AND SUDDENLY IN THE BRILLIANCE OF A CRASHING LIGHTNING BOLT, SHE SAW THE FIGURE MOVING TOWARD THE STAIRS...

IT IS SOMEONE AFTER ME! PETER SAID HE WOULD SEE ME DEAD, BUT I DIDN'T THINK HE MEANT IT!



BUT HOPE TURNED TO CHILLING DREAD...FOR THE DOOR TO THE TOWER ROOM WAS LOCKED!

IT WON'T OPEN! OH, WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE LOCKED? I'VE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO!!



SHE TURNED TO GO BACK DOWN THE STAIRS, BUT STOPPED! UNMISTAKEABLY, SHE HAD HEARD A FOOTSTEP COMING UP THE TOWER STAIRS!

I'M TRAPPED! **TRAPPED!**
WHOEVER IT IS WILL **KILL ME!**



A LIGHTNING FLASH MOMENTARILY REVEALED THE GLEAMING FORM OF A HUGE BATTLE AXE ADORNING THE WALL! WITH SWEATING, TREMBLING HANDS SHE GRASPED THE WEAPON.. AND THE SOUND ON THE STAIR WAS CLOSER!



SHE WAITED, TREMBLING VIOLENTLY, THE MASSIVE WEIGHT OF THE BATTLE AXE STRAINING HER EVERY FIBRE, HER EVERY NERVE TINGLING IN PANIC, HER EVERY SENSE REELING AND WHIRLING IN FRENZIED FEAR!

PETER? PETER, IS THAT YOU?! IF IT IS YOU, PETER, TELL ME!! **TELL ME!**
PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE!

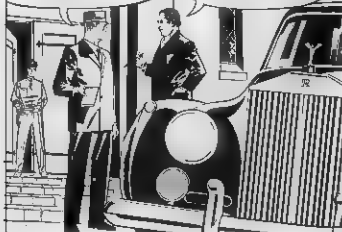


AND THEN, SUDDENLY THE FIGURE TURNED THE FINAL CORNER! THE RUSTLE OF CLOTHING AND HURLING FORM, A THRUSTING GLEAM LUNGING FORWARD, THE CRASHING, CRUSHING WEIGHT OF THE AXE GLASHING DOWN WITH ALL HER STRENGTH IN THE BLAZING GLARE OF LIGHTNING, SHRIEKS AND SCREAMS LOST IN THE FOLLOWING ROAR OF THUNDER!



SORRY TO CONFRONT YOU WITH SUCH AN UGLY THING, MR. BRENT, BUT WE HAVE TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS, YOU KNOW DON'T MIND, DO YOU?

OF COURSE NOT, INSPECTOR! YOU SAY THE CARETAKER DISCOVERED THE BODIES EARLIER THIS MORNING?



YES... SAID HE WAS COMING HERE TO OPEN THE HOUSE FOR YOU. HE DIDN'T KNOW YOUR WIFE HAD ARRIVED LAST NIGHT. HE SAW YOUR WIFE'S CAR PARKED IN FRONT, AND YOUR... ER... LADY FRIEND'S CAR BY THE SIDE ENTRANCE, SO HE SEARCHED THE HOUSE. HE FOUND THEM BOTH ON THE TOWER STAIRS... YOUR FRIEND MAGDA LARSON KILLED BY AN AXE... YOUR WIFE STABBED WITH A SWORD THAT BELONGED TO AN ARMOR STATUE WE FOUND LYING IN THE CORRIDOR!

GHASTLY.



I'LL COME RIGHT TO THE POINT, MR. BRENT THE NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN FULL OF ALL THE TROUBLE YOU'VE BEEN HAVING WITH YOUR WIFE AND... AND MAGDA LARSON! IT'S NO SECRET... AND WITH BOTH OF THEM NOW DEAD...

OF COURSE, MY FINE INSPECTOR. I DO UNDERSTAND, AND YOU'RE RIGHT... IT COULD HAVE DEVELOPED INTO A RATHER NASTY BUSINESS, BUT THIS DOES SEEM TO END IT ALL, DOESN'T IT?



NOT QUITE, MR. BRENT! WE FOUND THIS REVOLVER IN MAGDA LARSON'S COAT POCKET, WE CHECKED, AND IT'S HERE, ALL RIGHT! WE THINK SHE CAME HERE LAST NIGHT TO DO AWAY WITH YOUR WIFE... TO GIVE HERSELF A CLEAR FIELD WITH YOU, AND, INCIDENTALLY, LEAVE YOU HEIR TO YOUR WIFE'S FORTUNE!

WELL, THAT DOES SOUND LIKE MAGDA'S WAY OF DOING THINGS, BUT IT'S POSSIBLE THEY AGREED TO MEET HERE TO TRY TO REACH AN UNDERSTANDING... AND FAILED TO!



POSSIBLY, BUT JUST FOR THE RECORD, WE'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT PART YOU PLAYED IN ARRANGING SUCH A NEAT SET-UP!

ME, INSPECTOR? WHY I'VE HAD NO PART IN IT AT ALL! NOT AT ALL! AND IF YOU'RE WONDERING IF I HAVE AN ALIBI... WELL, I DO! A PERFECT ALIBI!

COME OUT, MY DEAR...



INSPECTOR, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MISS SHARIE GORDON MY ALIBI! YOU SEE, I SPENT ALL LAST EVENING WITH HER! SHE'LL VOUCH FOR IT!

I GET IT... A NEW GIRL FRIEND ALREADY, EH?





NOW, NOW, INSPECTOR, THAT'S NAUGHTY TALK! BUT IF YOU'RE ALL THROUGH HERE, I'LL SAY GOODBYE!

COME INSIDE, MY DEAR... EVER BEEN IN A REAL CASTLE BEFORE?

NO, I HAVEN'T IS IT A REAL, **REAL** CASTLE, PETER?



OF COURSE, MY DEAR. I'LL SHOW IT TO YOU ROOM BY ROOM... LATER.

PETER, YOU'RE SIMPLY TERRIBLE! HERE YOUR WIFE HAS JUST BEEN KILLED, AND THAT OTHER WOMAN, TOO, AND ALL YOU THINK ABOUT IS

MMMMM...



PETER, STOP IT! WHY, YOU'RE JUST AWFUL! I GLESS THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU SO EXCITING!

IT'S JUST THE BEG NNING, MY DEAR. JUST THE BEGINNING OF A WONDERFULLY **RICH** AND PLEASURABLE LIFE... FOR JUST THE TWO OF US!



OH PETER, YOU OUGHTN'T TO TALK LIKE THAT. SO SOON AFTER WELL, NOT **HERE** ANYWAY THOSE TWO WOMEN KILLED EACH OTHER HERE, AND

HA, HA, HA! OH, SHARIE, MY DEAR, YOU'RE SO INNOCENT! SO NAIVE! WHY, THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR! YOU SURELY DON'T BELIEVE IN **GHOSTS**, DO YOU?



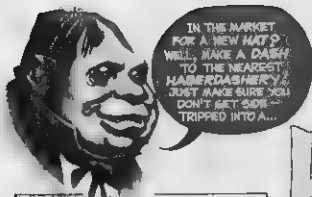
NO... OF COURSE NOT! IT'S JUST THAT IT'S SUDDENLY SO COLD AND CLAMMY IN HERE! DON'T YOU FEEL IT?

RID CULOUS! ABSOLUTELY RIDICULOUS! **HA, HA HA!** YOU'RE SUCH A CHARMER.

AND A HEARTY **HA, HA, HA**, TO YOU, TOO, FRIEND! WELL... PETER **AXED** FOR IT, DIDN'T HE? **SWORD** OF MAKES YOU THINK TWICE ABOUT PULLING ANY FAST ONES! BETTER EXAMINE YOUR OWN ACTIVITIES AND... AND... **AND LOOK OUT BEHIND YOU!**



The End



IN THE MARKET
FOR A NEW HAT?
WE'LL MAKE A DASH
TO THE NEAREST
HABERDASHERY!
JUST MAKE SURE YOU
DON'T GET SIDE-
TRIPPED INTO A...

IT WAS ALWAYS THE SAME ROUTINE FOR
CHRISTOPHER DUCLEY... THE BORING WALK FROM
HIS HOUSE TO THE BUS STOP, THE LONG
UNEVENTFUL RIDE TO THE OFFICE, THE ENDLESS
DRUDGERY OF OFFICE TRIVIA. NO WONDER
INSIGNIFICANT THINGS ALONG THE WAY BEGAN
TO CATCH HIS EYE...

HEAD SHOP



THAT'S
AN ODD ONE.
REALLY
ODD.



ALL OF THOSE
FACELESS DUMMY
HEADS IN THE
WINDOW... JUST
PROPS TO HOLD UP
THE HATS...



BUT THIS ONE
IN THE MIDDLE LOOKS
ALMOST REAL!
I WONDER WHY...?

HOPING THE HONEST OPINION OF A PASSER-BY MIGHT SHED SOME LIGHT ON HIS UNUSUAL DISCOVERY...



ALMOST LATE FOR WORK, CHRIS GLANCED BACK AT THE HEAD IN THE WINDOW AND HURRIED TO THE BUS STOP.



THOUGH HE TRIED TO CONCENTRATE ON HIS WORK, CHRIS' THOUGHTS ALWAYS RETURNED TO THE HEAD IN THE HABERDASHERY WINDOW. HE ALMOST LOOKED FORWARD TO RETURNING HOME FROM THE BUS STOP.



DAY AFTER DAY CHRIS DUCEY PASSED THE HABERDASHERY IRONICALLY HOWEVER, SEEING THE HEAD WITH THE PECULIAR SMILING FACE WAS ALSO BECOMING ROUTINE..

THAT IS, UNTIL TODAY!

MY OLD FRIEND GEORGE IN THE WINDOW... AND NOW HE'S BEGINNING TO BORE ME!

WHAAAAA-?!!!

SO ROUTINE HAD THE WALK PAST THE SHOP BECOME THAT CHRIS DUCEY HAD NOT GIVEN THE HEAD A CLOSE INSPECT ON IN DAYS.

...DIFFERENT!
LIKE TS CHANGED,
SOMEHOW!

THERE'S
...THERE'S
SOMETHING
WRONG WITH
IT! IT
LOOKS..

FEELING UNEASY, CHRIS PONDERED OVER THE MATTER ON HIS RIDE TO THE OFFICE... SOME VAGUE AND YET DEFINITE CHANGE HAD OCCURED.

THIS EERIE METAMORPHOSIS
CAST A DESPERATE SENSE OF
CONFUSION OVER CHRIS.

WHAT'S WRONG
WITH CHRIS?
HE SEEMS TO BE
IN A FOG!

THE WORST SUSPICIONS WERE FORMING IN CHRIS DUCEY'S MIND. FOR DAYS HE REFUSED TO LOOK AT THE DUMMY HEAD. FOOLISHLY HE HOPED THAT BY AVOIDING IT, HE MIGHT FORGET WHAT HE HAD SEEN.



BUT THERE IS A LIMIT TO THE AMOUNT OF SUSPENSE EVEN THE MOST FEARFUL OF MEN CAN TAKE.

I'VE GOT TO TAKE A LITTLE LOOK... JUST A LITTLE GLANCE...



...GOOD LORD!

CHRIS KNEW THAT HE SHOULD CALL THE POLICE. AND YET, A CONVICTION DEEP INSIDE HIM FOUGHT AGAINST THE REALITY OF THIS NIGHTMARE. IF HE COULD HARDLY BELIEVE IT HIMSELF, WHY SHOULD THE POLICE?!



MY WORST SUSPICIONS... TRUE! SOP! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!



AND SO HE DID THE ONLY THING HE COULD DO: HE RAN.



GOT TO GET AWAY FROM THAT GHOSTLY... THING!

AT THE OFFICE, THE TENSION INCREASED.
CHRIS COULD NOT THINK OF HIS WORK...



DUCEY!!!

Y-YES,
S-SIR?

DUCEY...
YOU'VE BEEN IN A
DAZE ALL WEEK! SNAP
OUT OF IT, BOY.
YOU'VE GOT A GOOD
HEAD ON YOUR
SHOULDERS!

A GOOD
HEAD... A
GOOD HEAD,
YOU SAY! YES!
A GOOD HEAD!
YES, SIR! HAHAA!
EXACTLY, A GOOD
HEAD!



HE'S HAVING
A NERVOUS
BREAKDOWN; I
THINK MR. DUCEY
SHOULD SPEND THE
NEXT WEEK AT HOME
... RECOVERATING
FROM WHATEVER IT
IS THAT'S BEEN
AFFECTING
HIM.

AT THE END OF HIS CONVALESCENCE,
CHRIS HAD STILL NOT FORGOTTEN ABOUT
THE HEAD. BUT THE REST DID SOME
GOOD... AND SOON HE THOUGHT 'T
TIME TO RETURN TO WORK.

MAYBE
IF I WALK BY THE
SHOP... AND LOOK
INTO THE WINDOW...
THERE WON'T BE
ANY HEAD...



MAYBE
IT'LL ALL TURN
OUT TO BE A
BAD DREAM...
GOD IN
HEAVEN!!!



WHAT IS
IT? MY GOD!
IT'S
DISGUSTING!

SUDDENLY CHRIS DUCEY FELT
HEROIC--OR CRAZY, HE HAD TO END
THE TORMENT. HOLDING HIS UNSTEADY
STOMACH, HE RUSHED INTO THE
HABERDASHERY THE PROPRIETOR'S
SURPRISED EYES FLASHED UP AT HIM



YES, SIR?
MAY I HELP
YOU, SIR?

YES,
PERHAPS
YOU CAN!

IN MY
WINDOW?
A HUMAN
HEAD?

DON'T YOU REALIZE.. THAT
THERE'S A REAL HUMAN
HEAD IN YOUR WINDOW...
AND IT'S (CHOKE!)
ROTTING?!!

BUT
YOU'RE
RIGHT. IT IS
ROTTING!
HOW
ABSENT-MINDED
OF ME AND HOW
THOUGHTFUL
OF YOU!



IT'S ABOUT
TIME..

... I GOT A
NEW ONE!



THE NEXT MORNING JSHERED IN JUST
ANOTHER ROUTINE DAY ANOTHER
PASSER-BY STRUCK BY THE STRANGELY
REAL HUMAN HEAD IN THE HABERDASH-
ERY WINDOW



HAMMM...
NOW THAT'S A
STRANGE ONE,
FOR YOU.

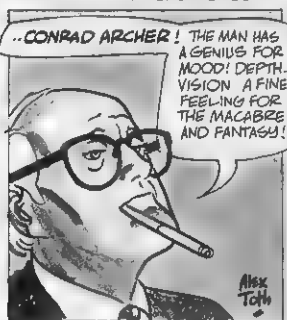


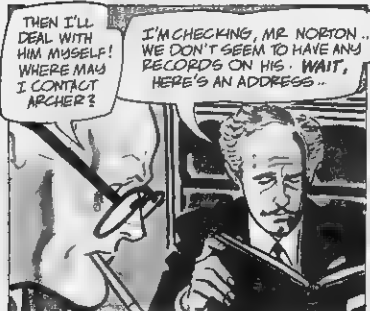
GATHER 'ROUND, ALL YOU PATRONS OF THE ARTS **BLACK ARTS**, THAT IS... I'VE GOT A **MAYHEM MASTERPIECE** FOR YOU! GRAB YOUR PAINTS AND BRUSHES FOR LESSON ONE IN **PETRIFYING PAINTING** GIVEN BY **CONRAD ARCHER**, A MAN WITH A REAL...

VISION OF EVIL



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TEN YEARS OF ART COLLECTING, SIMON NORTON FELT AN **EXCITEMENT!** MORE THRILLING THAN ACQUIRING AN OLD MASTER, THIS DISCOVERY! A VAST NEW TALENT UNCOVERED...





THEN I'LL
DEAL WITH
HIM MYSELF!
WHERE MAY
I CONTACT
ARCHER?

I'M CHECKING, MR. NORTON..
WE DON'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY
RECORDS ON HIS. WAIT,
HERE'S AN ADDRESS...

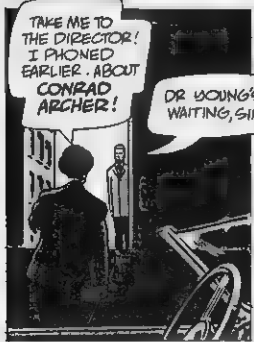


T. THIS MUST BE A MISTAKE... SAYS
KINGSFORD ASYLUM FOR THE
INSANE !!!



FROM MANHATTAN'S
PLUSH ART GALLERIES,
NORTON DROVE HARD
AND FAST INTO THE BY-
LANES OF NEW ENGLAND,
UNTIL HIS HEADLIGHTS
PLAYED ON THE GAUNT
IRON GATES OF AN AGING
GOTHIC STRUCTURE...

WHY NOT AN ASYLUM?
THERE'S A FINE LINE
DRAWN BETWEEN THE
WORLDS OF GENIUS
AND INSANITY...



TAKE ME TO
THE DIRECTOR!
I PHONED
EARLIER. ABOUT
CONRAD
ARCHER!

DR. YOUNG'S
WAITING, SIR!



DR. YOUNG?
YOU SAID I'D
BE ALLOWED
TO MEET
ARCHER...

MAY PROVE DISAPPOINTING. EXCEPT
WHEN PAINTING, HE'S COMPLETELY
WITHDRAWN.. IN A TRANCE! ART IS
HIS ONLY THERAPY.. YET, HIS
CHOICE OF SUBJECTS MAKES
ONE WONDER!

FOLLOWING DR. YOUNG FROM HIS OFFICE, NORTON WAS LED DOWN DARK, SLIMY STEPS, TO THE OLD BUILDING'S CELLAR...

STRANGE PLACE FOR A PATIENT IN THIS DAY AND AGE!

ARCHER INSISTS ON IT 'OFLATE, IT'S THE ONLY SPOT IN WHICH HE'LL WORK! REGRESSING, I'M AFRAID!

HERE YOU ARE, MR. NORTON.. CONRAD ARCHER!

HE JUST SITS LIKE THAT & ISN'T HE WORKING?

HE MUTTERED SOMETHING LAST NIGHT ABOUT 'ONE MORE SITTING'. HASN'T STIRRED SINCE CLAIMS THIS IS HIS LAST PAINTING !!!

NEARLY DONE, EXCEPT FOR AREAS ON THAT THING!

SHEER GENIUS!

INCREDIBLY LIFE-LIKE! ... B BUT THE DEMON'S VICTIM...

YES! HE USED HIMSELF! FASCINATING PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS!

THE PITY OF IT! ALL THAT TALENT AND FROM IT, ONLY TWO PAINTINGS!

OH, NO! ONE MORE! HIS MASTERWORK !! IT GAVE US PROBLEMS, TOO!





EMPTY! HE MUST'VE ESCAPED!!

STRANGE SMELL
IN THE AIR... LIKE
ASHES... OR LIKE
SOMETHING
BURNING!

GOT TO ALERT THE GUARDS! HE COULDN'T
HAVE GOTTEN OFF THE GROUNDS YET!

FINISHED!
PAINT'S STILL
WET!...

COME ON, NORTON!
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR
YOU! WE DON'T KNOW
WHAT STATE ARCHER'S
RUNNING AROUND IN!

DERANGED FANTASIES!
AND YET HE MAKES THEM
SEEM SO ALIVE!!!

AND DRIPPING! QUITE A LOT ON
THE FLOOR. BEAUTIFUL SHADE OF RED!

OH, MY GOD!!!

GENIUS!
SUCH GEN.!!

NORTON RETURNED
TO THE RECREATION
ROOM. IGNORING THE
HALLWAY CLAMOR OF
ATTENDANTS, HE MOVED
CLOSE TO THE MASTER-
WORK OF CONRAD
ASHER, AND RORED
OVER THE TECHNIQUE
AND DETAIL OF THE
PAINTING BEFORE HIM...

BEST KEEP THIS DOOR LOCKED UNTIL WE'VE FOUND ARCHER. AND I DON'T WANT ANY OF OUR OTHER PATIENTS ROPPING IN, SEEING THAT THING AGAIN!

CAN'T THINK OF WHERE ARCHER MIGHT'VE --
NORTON!
WHAT IS IT...?!!

LOOK AT IT!
LOOK AT THE
DETAILING!
HAVEN'T YOU
EVER SEEN...?!!

N-NO!!
I-I-!!

H-HOW...? ARCHER
HAD NEVER SEEN
YOU... HE COULDN'T.

I DON'T KNOW!
I DON'T KNOW!!

SUDDENLY, UNBELIEVABLY LOUD
AND STRONG, THERE WAS A BEATING
ON THE HUGE DOORS BEHIND THEM!

KABOOM!
KABOOM!
KABOOM!

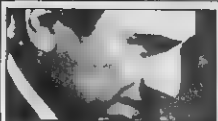
YOU CAN BET IT
WASN'T OPPOR-
TUNITY KNOCKING
(HEH, HEH) IN
BUYING ARCHER'S
PAINTING. MR
NORTON REALLY
GOT TOOK! ...
FOR KEEPS!!
IF HE'D STUCK
TO POP ART,
HE MIGHT NOT
HAVE HAD TO
POP OFF!!!
HAHAHAHAHA!

END

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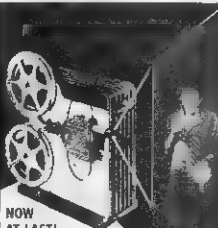
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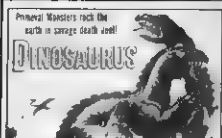
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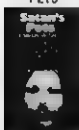
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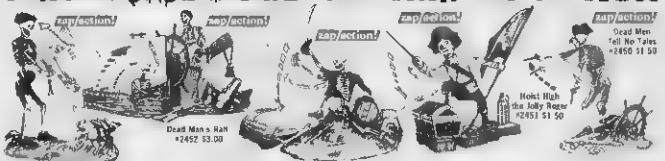
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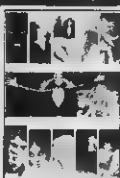
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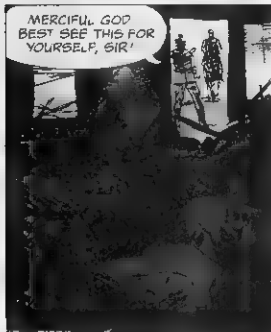


NOT A SOUL! NOTHING BUT THOSE RUDDY BIRDS! AND NO SIGN OF LIEUTENANT SMYTHE OR HIS GARRISON

WE'LL SOON KNOW FOR CERTAIN, S.R. THAT'S THEIR BARRACKS!

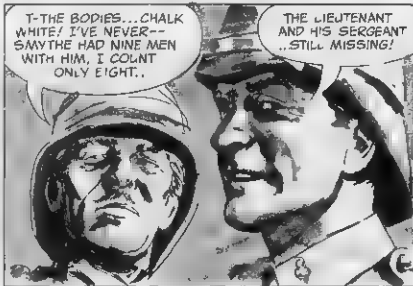
FLIES HOVERED IN THE FETTERED ATMOSPHERE OF THE DARKENED ROOM LIKE A VIBRATING BUZZING FOG. BOTH MEN WINCED.

MERCIFUL GOD BEST SEE THIS FOR YOURSELF, SIR!



T-THE BODIES... CHALK WHITE! I'VE NEVER-- SMYTHE HAD NINE MEN WITH HIM, I COUNT ONLY EIGHT..

THE LIEUTENANT AND HIS SERGEANT... STILL MISSING!



A CRY ECHOED THROUGH THE VILLAGE. THE TWO OFFICERS RUSHED IN THE DIRECTION OF THE SOUND.

IT'S SARGINT CAIRN! 'E WON'T BUDGE WON'T LET NOBODY IN THERE!

NOT TILL AV HAD MY SAY SORR! HEAR OUT MY STORY BEFORE YOU RUSH INSIDE!



EASY, MAN... WE'LL LISTEN! TAKE YOUR TIME, TELL US EVERYTHING!

THERE'S THINGS HAPPENED HERE SORR, A'N'T SO EASILY BELIEVED BUT THEY'RE NOT THE LESS TRUE FOR T MIGHT BE I WISH THEY WERE LIES!



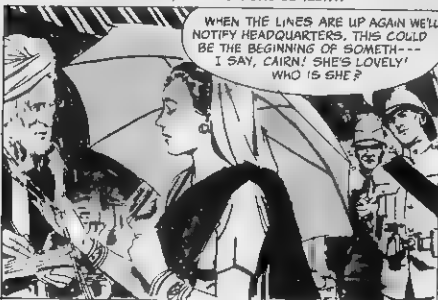
"SEVENTEEN YEARS AV SARVED THE QUANE AND MANY UV HER OFFICERS TOO. THERE'S FEW UV 'EM I'D PLACE ABOVE LIEUTENANT NIGEL SMYTHE, FEW INDEED.."



"T'WAS DEATH SET UPON US, HORRIBLE DEATH WITH MANY A VISIT YET TO COME! "



"HE WAS GOOD WAS LIEUTENANT SMYTHE, BUT DON'T BE FORGETTIN' HE WAS YOUNG, AN' TOO LONG LONELY..."



"A WEE GLIMPSE OF DARK EYES PASSIN' ON THE STREET AN' IT WAS STARTED, AN' NOT EVEN ME WITH MY EARLY MISGIVIN'S KNEW WHERE IT'UD END. "



"DOES ANYTHING MAKE LOVE BLOOM STRONGER THAN BY TELLIN' IT NO? AND IF I HAD DOUBTS ABOUT THE WISDOM UV SUCH A MATCH THEY WAVED ON THE FIRST N GHT OF THE FULL MOON "



"MAKE NO MISTAKE THE GURL LOVED THE LIEUTENANT,
YET SHE'D BEEN TRAINED FER A PURPOSE AN' FER
THAT PURPOSE SHE SUBMITTED

HEAR THY CHILDREN MOTHER KALI!
PR ESTESS OF DARKNESS DRINKER
OF BLOOD ACCEPT THIS SACRIFICE
QUENCH YOUR THIRST ON THE BLOOD
OF THIS OFFERING

"BUT SHE HAD TOLD LIEUTENANT SMYTHE, AND
FOR HIM TO KNOW WAS ENOUGH TO SAVE HER!"

"THE LIEUTENANT HAD NEVER LED
HIS MEN INTO A LOSING BATTLE,
AND THERE IN THE TEMPLE WAS
NO DIFFERENT AND YET IT WAS!"

YOU ROB KALI OF HER
BLOOD, YET STILL SHALL SHE
THIRST AND STILL WILL IT BE
QUENCHED! WE DIE BUT
MOTHER KALI LIVES, AND
BLOOD SHALL BE HERS!
YOU'LL CURSE THIS NIGHT
YOU'VE STOLEN
THE GIRL!

"THE LAD'S LAUGHTER RANG IN THAT OLD TEMPLE,
BUT I'D BEEN IN INDIA TOO LONG FER TO JOIN HIM."

"...AND THE MORE I THOUGHT ON THE OLD GURU'S
WORDS, THE LESS I TOOK TO THAT WHICH WAS
HAPPENING AROUND ME."

B BUT LAST NIGHT WE
DESTROYED EVERY THUG
IN THE AREA...YOUR
VILLAGE IS SAFE,
WHY LEAVE?

THUGS DIE BUT
KALI LIVES AND SO
DO HER CURSES
MY PEOPLE AND I
WILL LEAVE ABANDON
THIS PLACE!

I CANNOT GO, NIGEL SAHIB
MY LOVE IS FOR YOU, MY
PLACE IS WITH YOU...
I MUST STAY!

AND SO YOU
SHALL, DARLING,
SO YOU SHALL!



"I TRIED REASON, BUT THERE WAS NONE "

SORR THE GIRL WAS ONE UV 'EM..
SHE MAY HAVE BROKEN AWAY BUT
SLUMPTIN' LIKE THE GURL'S CURSE,
WELL IT WORKS ON ONE WHO'S
BELIEVED.. GETS TO 'EM
IT DOES!

SERGEANT, THE
GIRL STAYS AND
THAT'S THAT! SET
UP QUARTERS
FOR HER!

"IT AIN'T IN ME TO HATE THE
MAN. HE WAS IN LOVE, HE
COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN, THERE
WUZ NOTHIN' FER ME TO DO,
BUT POST THE GUARD AND
WAIT THE LONG NIGHT "



"THE OLD PRIEST HAD PROMISED THE TAKING UV
BLOOD AND THAT NIGHT IT HAD FLOWED. "

"WITH THE KILLINGS, THE B.LINDNESS TOOK OVER
COMPLETELY "



ALL FOUR GUARDS
LIKE THIS SORR!
HALF OUR MEN!

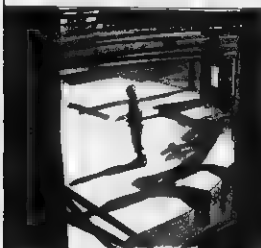
ASH-WHITE! AS THOUGH
EVERY DROP OF BLOOD
WAS DRAINED FROM HIS
BODY! AND THOSE
WOUNDS



THE THJGS ARE DEAD,
SORR AN' THE V LLAGERS
GONE! BUT SOMEHOW
SOMETHIN' CARRYIN'
OUT THAT CURSE!

THAT'S ENOUGH,
CAIRN! YOU'RE
FRIGHTENING
THE GIRL!

"THAT NIGHT 'T WAS ME WHO PATROLLED
THEM LONELY STREETS, 'T WAS ME WHO
STALKED, WEBLEY IN HAND, FER THAT
BLOODTHIRSTIN' THING "



"AND 'T WAS ME WHO'D LEFT FOUR MEN TO SLEEP WHILE
DOOM SUCKLED AT THEIR THROATS "



I CAME AT THE END OF
MY SHIFT TO WAKE THE
NEXT MAN TO GO ON..
YOU GOT TO ACT, SORR
DO SOMETHIN'..
BEFORE I DO!

"DON'T JUDGE HIM AS HARSHLY AS I DID. HE LOVED THE GIRL, NO MATTER WHAT ELSE HAPPENED. HE DIDN'T WAVER NONE IN THAT.."

LIEUTENANT, DON'T YOU SEE? UNTIL YOU CARRIED THAT GIRL OFF FROM THE TEMPLE, NONE OF THIS HAPPENED! THE CURSE!..

I SEE SUPERSTITIOUS DRIVE.., AND I SEE I CAN'T TRUST YOU ANY LONGER



THEN DO WITHOUT ME! WITH WIRES STILL DOWN SOMEONE SHOULD TRY TO REACH HEAD-QUARTERS AND GET THE RELIEF COLUMN HERE EARLY...I VOLUNTEER, SORR!



"OF COURSE I NEVER GOT SO FAR. THOUGHTS KEPT FILLIN' MY MIND. I THOUGHT OF A GENT FROM HUNGARY I'D ONCE MET. AN THE THINGS THEY DO THERE TO WARD OFF EVIL CREATURES OF THE NIGHT"

"MAYBE FOR SOMETHIN' LIKE THE LIKES OF THIS THING, IT WASN'T NECESSARY. YET AS I WAITED FOR THE SUN TO SINK IT SEEMED IT WOULDN'T HURT TO BE CERTAIN "



THERE'S EIGHT OF MY MEN LYIN' DEAD IN THAT BARRACKS. .EIGHT GOOD MEN FIT FER LITTLE MORE NOW THAN DRAWIN' FLIES. I'VE GOT TO DO IT!

"FIRST IT GREW DARK, THEN FINALLY THE MOON APPEARED. IN THAT TIME MY FEROCIOUS ANGER COOLED AND I BEGAN HOPING I'D SEE NOTHIN'. AND JUST WHEN I WAS HOPIN' THE HARDEST I SAW HER MOVIN' TO THE LIEUTENANT'S ROOM "



"I'VE HEARD IT SAID THAT IN THE HEAT UN BATTLE, MEN GO MAD. AV BEEN IN MANY A CAMPAIGN AN' WOULD STILL DENY IT, BUT NOT AFTER I BURST INTO THE BLACKNESS OF THAT ROOM!"



"WHAT I SAW WAS HORRIBLE... BUT NOT HORRIBLE ENOUGH TO STOP ME AS I THRUST THE STAKE HOME!"



"YOU'VE HEARD IT NOW, SORRS... 'TIZ ALL THE PREPARIN' I CAN DO. BEST NOW TO SEE FER YOURSELVES..."



"GOOD LORD!"

"B-BUT, CAIRN..."

"REMEMBER, I SAID THE GIRL LOVED HIM... THAT'S WHY SHE CAME TO HIS ROOM? I LIKE TO THINK THAT DEEP DOWN, HE REALLY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WUZ GOIN' ON..."



"...THAT HE NEVER KNEW THE GURU'S CURSE WAS ON HIM, THAT HE NEVER KNEW AT NIGHT HE WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A BLOOD-DRINKING MONSTER!"



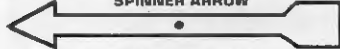
"SMYTHE MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN A FULL-FLEDGED VAMPIRE, BUT HE CERTAINLY WAS DEVELOPING A TASTE FOR HIS WORK, UNTIL HE FOUND OUT HOW MUCH WAS AT STAKE. SINCE THE POINT'S BEEN DRIVEN HOME, YOU MIGHT AS WELL GO ON TO MY NEXT FRIGHT FEAST



How to assemble your GAME

1. TO ASSEMBLE your game, carefully remove the cover from the spine of this magazine. Take care not to rip the cover in half when you're taking it off. For best results, remove the staples first, then lift off the game intact.
2. Clip off the player tokens and the player markers from the right hand side of the game. See example A.
3. Tokens and markers should then be pasted to a thin sheet of cardboard. (An old cereal box will do nicely.)
4. Cut out each marker along the solid black lines and distribute them to the appropriate players.

SPINNER ARROW



EXAMPLE C



EXAMPLE B



EXAMPLE A

7. Finally, cut out the arrow for the spinner. Stick a straight pin through the center of the arrow, making sure that the hole is large enough so the arrow will swivel freely around the pin. A push pin or a thumbtack will work just as well if you don't have a straight pin handy. See example C. Now you're ready for hours of terrific summer fun. Enjoy!

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CREEPY

NO. 27

A traveling salesman
... an old house ... a
ghost ... and MURDER!



**THE LOW SPARK
OF HIGH HEELED
NOISE!**



ON SALE AUGUST 21

PREVIEW

VAMPIRELA

NO. 28

EYE DON'T WANT TO DIE!



UHHH!



An old man's glass eye drives a pretty young English girl to the brink of insanity. She murders him but the eye lives on following the girl to her grave.



ON SALE JULY 17



Jerome Gurry, trapped within the Mummy's powerful body, wanders into a house of madness!

ENCOUNTER



His name is Hunter! He is the last of the humans. And his mission is to kill the mutant demons!



HUNTER

ON SALE AUGUST 28

EERIE

NO. 29